THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE) : (a) There is no proposal to constitute Indian Railway Infrastructure Development Fund at present.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Postings at Central Laboratory, Safdarjung Hospital

*573. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that senior laboratory technicians of Central Laboratory who are on the verge of retirement, have been put on hard duties such as night and emergency duties in Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a new Central Laboratory has been created by merger of small laboratories viz. Bio-chemistry, at Safdarjung Hospital;

(c) if so, the position of the staff of these small laboratories;

(d) whether any representation has been received from the employees; if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) the details of welfare measures taken at Safdarjung Hospital for senior employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) All Laboratory Technicians are put on shift duties round the clock.

(b) A new centralised emergency laboratory service has been set up since 1-11-99 to provide single window investigation facilities to the Patients beyond the routine hours; without merger of laboratories including that of Bio-chemistry.

(c) The staff of various laboratories are working as usual.

(d) A representation has been received from one Senior Lab. Technician for exemption from shift duties but the request could not be acceded to in view of the fact that all staff members are considered at par and are expected to perform duties in emergency services.

(e) There is no seperate welfare scheme for senior employees.